

OBSERVATIONS

UPON THE

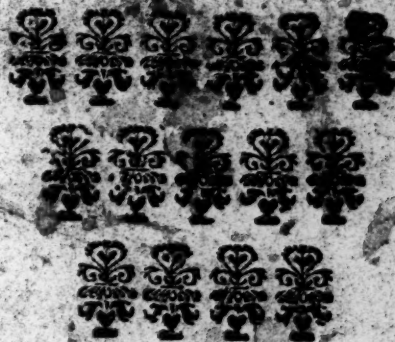
Subject Matter

Relating to the

MILITIA

AND

RECRUIT-BILLS.



Printed in the Year 1711.



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SUBJECT MATTER

Relating to the

Militia and Recruit-Bills, &c.

HAVING in the Two former Reigns, and also in this of Her most gracious Majesty, appear'd both in the honourable House of Commons, and also several times to the most honourable the Lords, for the Improvement of the Militia, for which I have not receiv'd any Reprimand or Censure, either by Word of Mouth or in Print, but may without Ostentation say I have been thank'd both by Lords and Commoners, which encourages my old and weaker Genius to renew and connex some of my former Observations, to try whether they may have any better Fortune than their Predecessors, in a new Parliament; who appear to regulate former Mistakes and Managements.

Therefore I presume to take my old Oar in Hand, and stir a little in the troubled Waters, yet retaining my old Principles, as a meer Old *English* Man; tho' I must confess my self discourag'd, finding the Recruit-Bill continu'd without Alterations, only an additional Clause as to regulating some innovated Practices amongst the Military Men, and not hearing one Word as yet of the Militia, on which I printed a short Discourse in 1707. under this Title, *Former Prints for a Standing-Army, and others in Vindication of the Militia, consider'd; and it's hop'd so reconcild, that the Militia may be made useful for the recruiting the Standing-Army.*

This, and another Discourse since in 1709, have not mov'd any Cognizance of the Militia otherways (this 22 Years) than that it shall be continu'd tho' the Month's Pay is not repaid; but what the Continuation signifies is easily determin'd, for they have not been call'd out since the Revolution; nor, with Submission, do I apprehend the Month's Tax material to be taken notice of after 22 Years, if all *England* laid a Claim to it, and that their distinct Proprietors too claim it, of whom it may be suppos'd few will appear and make a due Claim, so that there must be something more in the Wind than this Month's Pay; perhaps it may be an Apprehension of distasting or disturbing the Freeholders, by whom the Infantry are rais'd.

I must confess when I was concern'd in the Militia, (having the Care of a 100 Men in my own Country, from the Restoration for near 30 Years,) my Observation was, that the most Complaints and seeming Grievances were by the Dissenters, and very seldom any (without a just Cause) by those who were real Church of *England* Men; and it's those before-mention'd whom I have heard discourse whether it was not against *Magna Charta* to send a free-born Subject out of *England*, which I suppose the ensuing Quotations may answer, and I hope satisfy, if the Militia ever comes into fashion to be more useful than it is, which I am morally assur'd it may be made, either by the Scheme that hath been offer'd, which I shall not crowd in here, because it may be thought I am fond of my own Opinion, when indeed it would lengthen this to a Charge more than my Purse will well bear, which I have reason to consider, never having receiv'd any Favour for all my Services, Sufferings, and Endeavours, nor my Father before me, tho' his private Gentleman's Estate and his Person were ruin'd in and by the War of Forty One, which I must also wave, because the Particulars are long, unless I find these Endeavours taken notice of; it's a Folly to mention former Loyalty, therefore I go on in saying that the Tenures of Knight-Service, Villenage, Escuage, Ward-Ships, &c. were not taken away until *Anno* 12. *Charles II.* when the Excise and Militia were settled by way of Composition, or Compact, which at that time gave so great a Satisfaction, that People counted it Halcion Days. and yet now, tho' there be a Necessity, for the Weal of the Nation, to send Soldiers beyond Sea, I find several unwilling to run the Hazard for their Country's Good, and pretend a Privilege by *Magna Charta* not to be sent beyond Sea, tho' 'tis apparent it was the Custom in former Reigns, when the Nation's Affairs requir'd it.

Whereas

Whereas Commissioners have been awarded to several People of Shires to prepare Men of Arms, and convey them to the King into Scotland, or elsewhere, at the Charge of the Shires. The King hath not before this time given any Wages to the said Preparers and Conveyers, nor Soldiers whom they have brought, whereby the Commons of the Counties have been at great Charge, and much impoverished. The King wills that it shall be done so no more. Edward 3.
Anno 1.
Cap. 7.

This Chapter shews that the Subjects of this Kingdom us'd to serve beyond Sea at the Countries Charge, which the King here wills shall be done so no more. This was enacted 25 Years after *Magna Charta*, and demonstrates that no Act of Immunity, or Privilege from Service in Arms out of the Kingdom, ought to be of value when the Nation's Affairs required Service; so that if other Acts be now objected against impressing any Men to go out of the Kingdom, the Parliament can remove that Objection as well now as in *Edward the Third's* Time.

It is enacted, That no Man shall be compell'd to arm himself to go out of his Shire but where Necessity requireth, and then it shall be done as it hath been done. — Which implies, That Subjects of *England* were obliged to serve as Soldiers where Necessity required. Edward 3.
Anno 1.
Cap. 5.

It is enacted, — That Men of Arms, Hoblers, and Archers, chosen to go in the King's Service, or out of *England*, shall be at the King's Wages from the Day they depart out of the Counties where they were chosen until they return. Edward 3.
Anno 18.
Cap. 70.

These Acts were confirmed by King *Henry the Fourth*. So 'tis apparent that Forces to serve abroad were chosen out of the Bodies of Men now called Militia, and enter'd into the King's Pay. Henry 4.
Anno 4.

Sets forth at large sending Soldiers into Parts beyond the Seas, and to the Seas, as also into *Scotland*, and other Places, divers times, both within this Realm, and without this Realm, many able Persons, or Soldiers, well furnished with good Horses and Harnesses, meet to serve the King in his Wars, to their great Charge, &c. Edward 6.
Anno 2-3.
Cap. 2.

'Tis provided, That any thing in that Act contained, shall not be deemed to extend to any Power for transporting Subjects of this Realm, or compelling them to march out of this Kingdom, otherwise than by the Laws of this Kingdom ought to be done. Which implies, that upon several Occasions it has, and may be done by Law. Car. 2.
Anno 13-14.
Parag. 32.

'Tis observable that many publick Affairs are wholly left in the Power of the Parliament, as in this Chapter, no Man shall be Edward 3.
Anno 25.
Cap. 8.

constrained to find Men of Arms, other than those that hold by Knights-Service, if it be not by common Assent, and Grant in Parliament.

The raising of Soldiers and Duration of Military Affairs have for many Ages been referr'd to Parliament, because they can't be maintained without Money and Aids given by Parliament.

Edward 1.
Anno 25.
Cap. 6. That for no Business shall the King take Aids, Tasks, or Prizes, but by common Assent of the People.

With Submission, the present Recruit Bills omit the taking Care for sick and maimed Soldiers, and giving to those Encouragement that have faithfully served in the Army, as in former Days have been done, by virtue of several Statutes.

Eliz. 30.
39.
43. Acts were made for Relief of sick and maimed Soldiers, and in *Anno 43* of that Queen every Parish in *England* and *Wales* was obliged to pay Weekly a Sum rated not exceeding 10 *d.* or under 2 *d.*

Anno 1642. The Parliament ordained, that the particular Parishes the last Habitation Places of every maimed or slain Soldier, should raise a competent Stock of Money, by way of Assessment upon the Inhabitants of the several Parishes, for Relief of the said maimed Soldiers, or the Widows and Children of the Slain.

Anno 1651. An Ordinance passed for Relief of sick and maimed Soldiers, their Widows, &c. who lost their Lives in *Scotland* and *Ireland*.

Anno 1654. The Parliament ordained, for the Encouragement of Soldiers that had served in the Wars, that they might exercise any Trade in any Corporation; and, upon Indictment, to plead his Service in the War; which Plea was ordained to be allowed.

Mr. Scobel's Collections.
Henry 5.
Anno 9. Protections were granted to them that were in the King's Service in *Normandy* or *France*, or which should pass with him into *France*.

Henry 8. Confirms the Act of *Henry the Fifth*.

Anno 4. Likewise confirms the Privileges granted by *Henry V.*

Edward 4.
Anno 4. In the beginning of an Act 'tis mentioned that the King intended to send over a great Army.

Henry 8.
Anno 3. And in King *Charles* the Second Time, it was Enacted towards the Relief of Poor and Maimed Officers and Soldiers, that every Parish should pay as by the Act of *Elizabeth 43*. And moreover, that at the respective Quarter Sessions to be held after *Easter*, every Parish should be Rated by the Justices of the Peace as shall seem meet to them, not below 3 *d.* and not exceeding 2 *s.* 6 *d.* per Week. Soldiers that had Serv'd under the General, the Duke of *Albermarle*, the 25th of *April*, 1660, and never

Car. 2.
Anno 13-14.
Cap. 90.

Charles 2.
Anno 12.
Cap. 16.

never deserted him, were enabled to set up Trades in any City or Corporation, or elsewhere ; notwithstanding the Statute made in *Anno 5. Elizabeth*, Prohibiting the use of certain Trades, by any Person that had not serv'd as an Apprentice to such a Trade, by the space of Seven Years.

These Acts and common Practice having clear'd the Question, whether Men may be sent by Act of Parliament out of the Militia, into Land-Service beyond the Seas: — It's now presum'd to shew some Instances wherein the Militia have been useful to *England*, not only to quell intestine Broils and Rebellions, but also to gain considerable Conquests beyond Sea.

Edward VI. by the Militia, subdued the many Risings and Rebellions of his Subjects, almost in every County of the Kingdom, who by Force of Arms endeavoured to oppose the Reformation ; and when the *Spaniards* design'd to Invade this Kingdom in 1588, with an Invincible *Armada*, (as they boastingly stil'd it) how ready was the Militia to Serve *Q. Eliz.* : (which tho' Her Army was compos'd of Men, oblig'd by several Tyes, (as Knights Service, Escuage, &c.) either to serve in the War themselves, or find Men of Arms to do it, were Men Raw and Undisciplin'd, as our present Militia is ; (so can be counted no other than a Militia ;) these faithful Soldiers with Alacrity, not to be exceeded by a Standing Army, watch'd the Motions of the Attempting Foes ; and without doubt, had God permitted them to Land, they would have been received with so great Bravery, that would have convinc'd the World, that the Militia of *England* are useful, and ought to be Valued.

Many more home Instances I could bring as well as Foreign, to shew how Serviceable the Militia of *England* has been, and may still be. How often in the Reigns of *Edward III.* *Henry V.* *Henry VIII.* have our Militia (I can call it no otherwise) carried the War into the Bowels of *France*, and Pursu'd their Conquest into the Capital City of *Paris*, where *England's* King was Crown'd with the *French* Diadem. The very Name of *Talbot*, that famous *English* General was at that time a Terror to the *French*. In Queen *Elizabeth's* Time, how bravely did the *English* (drawn out of the Counties Soldiers) oppose the Tyrranick Power of *Philip* the II. of *Spain*, design'd quite to enslave the *Dutch*, and took those then distressed States into Protection. Our Militia is a fruitful Soil, that if Cultivated, would produce mighty Advantage to the Nation, as to its Defence against an Invading Enemy ; and also be a Nursery, to supply

Supply with Recruits a Standing Army. Our Predecessors thought it of some Value sure, else the Power of Commanding it, would never have been so contended for in *Anno 1641.* — I find in the History of the Lives of the Chancellors of *England*, the Dispute (between Lord Chancellor *Hide*, and Commissioner *Whitlock*) in whom the Power of the Militia lay, was argued by those Two Ingenious Men: *Clarendon* conceiv'd it ought to be Absolutely in the King, and *Whitlock* thought in King and Parliament together: But in Process of Time, that was over-Rul'd, and after King *Charles's* Restoration, was declared Absolutely in the Crown. I hope the Recital of the Authors 4th Paragraph, Folio 367. may be a Caution to those of Eminency in this Age. Wherein it is said, *How different soever their Sentiments appear'd to be, as to the unnatural War that followed, they were equally unhappy; that the Excellency and Usefulness of their Pens to the contending Parties, should contribute to widen, rather than make up the gashly breach, which their Mutual and after-endeavours at Uxbridge, could not effect.* — This makes out what has been formerly said upon account of the Militia; that Jealousies started, are not easily stifled.

Mr. *Dryden's* } *Why are we blam'd if that we go astray?*

two Lines, } *When all our Guides dispute which is the way.*

Which by him are applied to the Learned Clergy, or other Pretenders to Religion, and may also be observable by us of the Laity: It's not to be denied what Mr. *Whitlock* argued, for the Militia being in the King and Parliament for a Foreign War, which cannot be maintain'd without Parliamentary Aid: But he himself does in effect, after his Arguments with the Chancellor, allow the Militia to be absolutely in the Crown; for he courted General *Cromwell* with it as his chief Security, as is observable in the History of the Chancellors, beginning at Page 150. where General *Cromwell* desires a private Discourse with him; where in many Pages following he unbosoms himself; and in long Conferences sets forth the Grievances of those Times, declares his Inclination to be King; complains of the Discontents, Dangers, &c. of the Standing Army growing into Faction and Ambitious Designs: That it was a wonder to him that they were not in high Mutinies, &c. well worth Reading in the Pages 151, 152, 153, 154. in which second Paragraph, &c. he says, What if a Man should take upon him to be King? *Whitlock* answered, He thought that Remedy would be worse than the Disease. *Cromwell* ask'd him, why he thought so? As to your own Person
said

said he, the Title of King would be of no Advantage, because you have all the Kingly Power in you already concerning the *Militia*, as you are General: This Discourse continues to Folio 159, *Anno* 1652. in which Folio, *Cromwell* asks *Whitlock* what were his Thoughts for the prevention of those Mischiefs that hung over their Heads?

Whitlock replied, Pardon me Sir in the next place a little to consider the condition of the King of *Scots*, (by whom was meant King *Charles* the II.) This Prince being now by your Valour, and the Success which God hath given to the Parliament, and to the Army under your Command, reduc'd into so very low a Condition, both he and all about him, cannot but be very inclinable to hearken to any Terms, whereby their lost Hopes may be Reviv'd, of his being Restor'd to the Crown, and they to their Fortunes and Native Country. By a private Treaty with him, you may secure your Self and your Friends, and their Fortunes; you may make your Self and your Posterity as Great and Permanent, toj all Humane Probability, as ever any Subject was; and provide for your Friends. You may put such Limits to Monarchical Power, as will secure our Spiritual and Civil Liberties; and you may secure the Cause in which we are all engag'd: And this may be effectually done, by having the Power of the *Militia* continued in your Self, and whom you shall agree upon after you. I propose therefore to your Excellency, to send to the King of *Scots*, and to make a Private Treaty with him to this purpose, and so on.

Which proves what has been said of the decay of the *Roman* Empire, in a former Discourse of the *Militia*, *Anno* 1699.

It's only observ'd at this time from those Instances, that they who had set up themselves by an Enthusiastical Military Power, thought the *Militia* a better Security than their Army, when they have little or nothing to do.

The same Author in his curious Observations concerning the Laws, Religion, Military and Naval Strength of *Sweedland*, (folio 176. *Anno* 1654.) to folio 185, and so forward. In Page 183, Paragraph the sixth, says, there is a great similitude between the Manners, Laws, Language and Disposition of the *Swedes*, and the *English*; and the like Gallantry of their Gentry and Soldiery, Industry of Merchants and Artificers, and Labouriousness of their Husband Men. They are generally like the *English*, and the more like to correspond and agree in Amity with us. Waving many instances wherein the *English* and *Swedes*

are Parallel, the Fourth Paragraph in Page 181, may be observ'd as to their Military Method. They have a standing Militia of Fifty Thousand Men, and all these maintain'd at a very small Rate to the Crown, and with no Burden to the Country. These may be drawn together in Ten Days ; and out of these, they draw forth Soldiers upon any Foreign Design.

To those eminent Instances which demonstrate that the Militia has been esteemed useful, so as to be contended for, as valuable and preferable, both at Home and Abroad, I shall only add that *Anno primo Jac. 2.* upon the Invasion and Insurrection of the late Duke of *Monmouth* in the West of *England*, the Militia behaved themselves as well, as if they had been long in constant Discipline. We must not slight the behaviour of our troublesome Neighbours, the *French*, as to their Militia ; for as our News Papers related, they appear'd not long since so Numerous and Regular, (having very few standing Disciplin'd Men) that upon our Landing in three several Places, there was not one Engagement ; it's *ad stuporem gentium*, that we do not make our selves as formidable. Our *Evening-Post* of *Feb. 10.* tells us, the *French* King has Order'd 25000 Militia, to March out of *Picardy* into *Flanders*, for recruiting his Army there.

The first Material Objection that I meet with against the Militia, as it has been settled since 1660, is by Mr. *Waller*, in the *Lives of the Chancellors*, Page 277, Paragraph the third, wherein he says, The Militia is now as Burdensome to the Fifty pounds-Man *per Annum* in the Country, almost as all other Taxes ; and the Lords have gotten this Advantage of us, that they touch not the Burden with their Finger ; and this openly in the Honourable *House of Commons* ; which is a sufficient Introduction for a general Tax, which has been formerly propos'd, *Anno 1698, 1699.* for supporting the Militia, and will be again mention'd in this following Discourse. This Instance is the chiefest Reason I have met with, unless some of State, which I shall not recite, why the Militia has not been Exercis'd (as in former times) for 22 Years last past, tho' Annually, and Act hath past for the continuance of the Militia, notwithstanding the Month's Pay at the Revolution is not satisfied ; the consideration of which, with Submission, may be laid aside : For it may reasonably be supposed there's few that expect it, being 20 Years past ; so that there may not be many Proprietors to claim it, if the whole Kingdom had been at the Charge of the Months Pay, which is supposed it was not : So that an Additional Method for the Militia

litia, may be made without Clamour or Disturbance, if all Persons will conscientiously consider that they ought to pay for the defence of their Profits, proportionably to what they enjoy, especially if the Method formerly propos'd, or any other the Parliament shall think more proper, shall take effect; and shall make appear to be more Useful, less Charge, less Trouble, and yet produce more Security at Home, and be in a good measure instructed for going Abroad as occasions require, for Recruiting the Army now Abroad, or so long as this War continues, or any other shall happen in Futurity. And moreover, the Parliament may be eas'd of farther Recruit Bills, and the Justices of the Peace through the whole Dominions, eas'd of the trouble of Executing, as it were, the Office of Press-Masters, whereby they have the Ill-will of their Neighbours, and yet cannot raise the Recruits expected upon Immurgencies, as has been experimented; And may prove so this Year by what I hear, so that the Militia may yet this Year be helpful for Recruits.

For this War Pot has Boil'd so long, that most of the Scum of the Nation (which is described in the Recruit Bills) is taken off, and many of the active young Men who should have undertaken Trades, or Husbandry, to the Satisfaction of their Parents and Friends, have despis'd them, and are gone off; and also many who should have undertaken Studies, have chosen to have their Portions and Assistance of their Friends, to raise Money for buying Commissions; so that considerate and considerable Men, must withdraw their Hands from the Plow, and other Industries, and apply themselves to the Exercise of the Pike, Musket, and Sword, without thoughts of looking back, or settling at Home, until we have a consolidated Peace; unless you will rely wholly upon Hirelings, or can be Recruited with our New Brethren of *North-Britain*.

I hope it will not be said I am presumptive, in observing and comparing several of the Acts quoted in the beginning of this Discourse, with the late Acts for Recruits: The former require Soldiers upon Duty, the latter invite them by Premiums in hand, and Promises of Discharge at three Years end, but take no care of them in Reversion; whereas former Acts comprehend what has been propos'd in the Scheme mentioned, which is the same with the present Acts for the Militia, as to the finding of Men to the number of fifty thousand, forty thousand Foot, eight thousand Horse, and 2000 Dragoons in *England* and *Wales*,
 B 2 which

which are but half of the Number; or if strictly observ'd, a third part of what are to be rais'd, or might be rais'd by the present Acts for the Militia: And if the like method goes on in *North-Britain*, in proportion, there will be a considerable addition of Men in readiness; 500 *l. per Annum*, for the ease and certainty to the Nation, shall find a Horseman, Horse, and Accoutrements, and 100 *l. per Annum*, a Footman: But the proposition or intention is, that the charge shall be born by the Publick Stock, rais'd by the 6 *d. per l.* as above-mentioned; moreover, the Finders are to take care of their Representatives, (as those Men rais'd are lookt upon to be, which in the other Prints are more at large discours'd) that they have necessaries in case of Sickneses, Wounds or Lameness, or dismiss for any Impediments, or upon a Certificate of their good behaviour, they be Discharg'd, the Finders shall be assisting to their having a Pension, or be put into an Hospital; or if they desire to exercise any Trade, or other Industry in any Corporation or County, the Finders are to be aiding; and for farther encouragement for Soldiers, it has been propos'd that 2 *d. per Day* be allowed out of the Publick Stock, to every Soldier that shall be drawn out of the Militia into the Army, the very Day included that he is drawn, until he returns into the Country or Corporation where he was first Listed, and this 2 *d.* to be over and above the daily Army Pay; so that he will have a Sum to set up any Trade or Employment, and be an encouragement to him, to stick to his Colours, and not desert as has been much complain'd of: The Recruit Money being spent, which perhaps was 2, 3, or 4 *l.* the Run-away, if caught, is Hang'd, and the Service not perform'd; so all is lost. Whereas the Militia Man, if he continues three Years in Service, will receive towards Stock, Nine Pounds. More might be said, and brought into an Act, if the Parliament shall think fit; but if they do not approve of this Discourse, I shall draw this conclusion, that *Great Britain* is Happier than I understand; for if we have no want of Soldiers, I am heartily content to lose my Labour; and I do sit down with high Praises and Gratitude to God Almighty, when I hear and consider the great number of Men that are in Arms in our Neighbouring Countries; the Marches and Counter-Marches, Sieges, Skirmishes, and Battles, which tho' they may be manag'd with the strictest Discipline that ever was in the World, yet vast Inconveniencies must happen, and Slaughters, to the Affrightments of all Inhabitants in those Countries, whilst we set quietly under
our

our own Vines, paying only our Quota. I confess I am concern'd, at the complaints of the Merchants Losses in this long War ; but not being skill'd in Merchantile Affairs, I will not presume to treat thereof, only observe, that we are now perplext with a *French* Piratical War, more detrimental than those formerly with the *Turks*, who are accounted Men of better Morals ; as is experimented in their late Treaty with the Right Honourable the Lord *Paget* ; besides, were less pernicious, being at a greater distance.

The Gross vexatiousness of the *French* to the *English*, will appear in the following Discourse.

I hope I shall rest in a moderate and charitable Wish as to Church Affairs, that with Affection, rather than any Compulsion, the Union may be circled with this Motto, *Ecclesia Magna Britannia Concordia.*

The Word *Union* is of a large Extent, whether it's observ'd in reference to Divinity, *Quatenus*, the Trinity in Unity, or in reference to our Humanity, whereby *Adam* had his first Happiness. To look back and enter into Discourses upon these Two Heads would make Volumes, which would be more than I am able to undertake, I wish I may offer the courteous Reader Satisfaction pursuant to its Effects in *England*, where, if I mistake not, it has plac'd and fix'd more valuable Jewels in the Crown than Legions, Regiments, Battalions, or Squadrons ; the daily Broils of the Heptarchy are for ever vanish'd, Barons Wars ceas'd, *York* and *Lancaster* united ; *Wales*, which long contested for the Defence of its Principality, is much happier in its Union with *England*, and undoubted *North Britain* will find the like good Effects, some good Events we have found already ; and this does appear, if we both look back into our Annals, which make manifest that *Mars* and *Venus* both have been industrious, laborious, solicitous, and courageously instrumental, for bringing this Union about, since King *Edward I.* one of the wisest Kings that ruled in *England*, endeavour'd to joyn *Scotland* to *England* by Conquest, above 400 Years since, he succeeded in part, but could not keep it. *Edward III.* Anno primo Cap. 7. about 340 Years since, Commissions were awarded to several Shires to prepare Men of Arms, and convey them to the King into *Scotland*, &c. Near 100 Years more past in Differences and Hostilities, whereby such Depredations and Devastations were made, that the North of *England* and South of *Scotland* is a vast Plain at this time, and demonstrates, that until this happy Union there remained Fears
and

and Jealousies, for there has not been any considerable planting; since there is neither Shade or Shelter for many Miles. King *Henry* the Seventh study'd by Policy to unite the Two Kingdoms, by marrying *Margaret*, his eldest Daughter, to King *James* the Fourth of *Scotland*, and his youngest to the *French* King, preferring an Alliance and Union with *Scotland* to that of *France*, and his Reasons are mentioned in the Genealogical History of *Sand-ford* and *Stebbing*, Esq; 463. which Thought God was pleas'd to bring to effect about 100 Years after, for the Marriage was on *St. Paul's* Day at *St. Paul's*, Anno 1502, and King *James* the Sixth of *Scotland* began his Reign in *England* Anno 1602, where he reign'd 22 Years after he had peaceably enjoy'd the Throne of *Scotland* several Years; He came over without Arguments or Arms, *ad corroborandum Titulum*, but enjoy'd both Kingdoms in Tranquility, having nothing to disturb his Reign but the Arguments and Agents of *Rome* and *France*; yet tho' his Courtiers and Friends which he brought with him were Men of Learning and Wisdom (as well as himself) yet they could not compromise an Union agreeable to the Interest of the People of both Kingdoms for obstructing these Endeavours.

Queen *Margaret*, after the Death of King *James* the Fourth, was incited by the *French* King to a War with *England*. *Vide Sanford and Steb, Lib. 6. Cap. 5. Fol. 522, 523.* And in the 31st of Queen *Elizabeth* the Pope appear'd with all the Malignity and Power he could raise by his Bulls, by assisting the *Austrian Eagle* in the *Spanish Armada*, and they used all the Endeavours that might be for making Commotions in *Scotland*, which have often been a Door for the Admission of the *French* to disturb the Peace of *England*, by raising Divisions and fomenting Jealousies to prevent the Union of *Great Britain*, which is now happily effected; and the present Benefits the united Kingdom enjoys, and its reasonable Hopes for compassing farther Events, does appear so material that I need not say more under that Head, but go on plainly with the undertaking to demonstrate that the way of Recruits might for a Year or Two be good Physick, in taking up disorderly, lusty, idle young People, as the Act describes, but the long Continuance of the Methods which much interferes does not prove wholesome good Diet.

I hope, if I say nothing but Truth, I shall not be counted a Disparager, for its apparent the first Order or Directions are extended so that the common Youths of the Nation are almost dis-

dispirited and effeminated, being debarr'd of all sorts of publick Recreations or Sports of Activity, which were great Helps for making them fit for Soldiers; nor dare they go to Fair or Market for fear of a peevish Hireling Constable, or Parish Officer, who will seize him as a Loiterer, and hamper him into a great Expence, if he does not send him for a Soldier, without bringing him before a Justice of the Peace; Its confess'd a Constable has been formerly of great Reputation, Authority and Esteem, but now they are become Hirelings, and solicit for the Office, in which they soon commence to act many indirect Practices, and use honest Men by many degrees worse than we do our Horses, by putting them into Barns, Goals, or the *Savoy*, which gives so great a Disgust to them, that it causes many Runaways or Deserters, whose Number is express'd to be 20000 Men loytering in *England*, by a Gentleman who writes much better than I am able on this Subject, viz. the Author of a short Method propos'd to prevent Desertion of Soldiers for the future, &c. which Book was sold in *Westminster Hall* the last Year, and, as I am inform'd, has been renew'd this Year, the Truth of which I shall not assert, but if true, I am morally assur'd those Men, who are in Fact condemn'd by Law, will be desperate if they come into any Commotion, which I heartily wish may not happen, for the Preparatories are visible, Pens and Pulpits being full of Vinegar and Gall; and the Pamphlets are so full of *Billingsgate*, or scurrilous Language, that it's wonderful we have not daily Broils in our Streets.

More might be said on this Subject, which I shall wave, only this Instance, that I am told the Constable, and other Parish Officers, take ill Women into their Assistance for Recruits, who insnare young Men, and immediately send for the Parish Officer to take him or them up, and go Snacks of the Allowance. Now if Men be hurry'd from their Country without Liberty of taking Leave of their Friends, and their Recruit-Money spent, and perhaps Hunger pinch'd before they arrive in a strange Country, where it's probable they do not understand the Language, nor us'd to the Diet, nor have any Prospect of future Compensation, these will raise Inclinations in them to desert; whereas if the Militia was rais'd by the Freeholders of betwixt 50 and 100*l.* per *Ann.* and enabled with the Powers in the Recruit Bill, and for punishing Mutineers and Desertion, they would be diligent to search for such

such People as the Law makes liable to be taken up, and probably by fair Discourses, or Perswasions, or some Money in hand, may compass Representatives who will cheerfully serve, upon the Assurances that the Person he represents, will take care for him in case he's disabled by any means, and also to assist him for the County's Reward, either for his own proper Use, or for the Help of his Wife or Children.

I must confess this extends to the Measures of a more experienced Writer than I can pretend to be, for the Reasons I have offer'd in other Papers, which may be my Apology if I am any ways taken notice of for this, which I could be very much inlarge if I should instance half the Complaints I hear which exceed the Limits of the Law. I have heard an Old Parson in his Pulpit often express that formerly it was a Saying, *Homo Homini Deus*, now it's *Homo Homini Leo aut Lupus*. It's apparent we use each other worse than we do the Blacks we buy, for we treat them like Christians if we do not christen them.

These Discourses will all vanish if these Methods of the Militia become practicable, or any other the Parliament shall think more proper; it will be a Diversion both to the Queen, Nobility, Gentry, Citizens, and Country, to see 10000 Infantry, 2000 Cavalry, and 500 Dragoons. The Proportion of Cavalry allotted to the Infantry is set forth to be a fifth part in the Military Instructions collected out of divers ancient and modern Authors, and rectify'd in the Low Country Wars, *An. 1632. Cap. 19. Fol. 26.*

Every Year, for Four Years successively, if Her Majesty so pleases, at *Hounslow-Heath*, betwixt *May-Day* and *Midsummer*; this will animate the Men to be so view'd in new Clothing, that what Company shall be requir'd will move cheerfully into foreign Services; If the whole of Foot be requir'd by the Queen in Council to attempt the *French* 3 or 4 Months, being allow'd something more than the customary Army Pay, I doubt not but they will freely march; for there's a diverting Story of a brisk repartee betwixt Cardinal *Mazarine* and General *Cromwel*, when the Design was agitating against *Dunkirk*. The Cardinal sent this Advice to the General: *That he should send good store of Beef and Pudding with his Men*; the General reply'd, *That he would stuff them well before they set out, and that they should take the Place before they had digested it.*

The like may happen again, especially if their own Officers will head them, but with Submission, no Commission Officer of the Militia who generously, dutifully,
and

and affectionately, undertakes Arms for the Service of the Queen, Preservation of the Constitution in Church and State, the Security of their native Country, and Families, without Prospect or Expectation of any other present or future Advantage, shall be requir'd or enjoyn'd to go beyond Seas; for in case the whole of Foot should be requir'd, the Officers undoubtedly remaining will be a great Encouragement for raising Men; if after the Experiment of this Rotation thro' *England* in 4 Years the Queen and Parliament shall think fit to continue another Rotation, yet, with Submission to better Judgment, those Gentry that do voluntary take Commissions in the Militia ought to have some seeming Reward or Encouragements, and to that purpose I presume humbly to offer this to Consideration, whether, if they themselves think fit to plead it, should not be exempt from all Civil Employments that are chargeable, as being High Sheriffs, Justices of the Peace, Commissioners in the publick Affairs in the Government, or any other chargeable Offices, for a Soldier should be as free as it's possible from all worldly Cares, for it's Business enough to study Military Undertakings, which requires being Master of the Mathematicks, and for the Undertaking he deserves Knighthood, if his Estate will properly bear it, as well as a Lord-Mayor or Sheriff, &c.

By this means all *England* takes their Turns in some Equality, and will be easily understood whether a Gratitude and Satisfaction remains for the Indulgence and Favour of the Crown and Government in taking away Knights-Service, and accepting Representatives in the Militia, or whether they will be willing to pay Taxes to maintain a Standing-Army in Times of Peace. If the Militia be this Year rais'd it will be a Preparatory for War or Peace the next Year.

By this means the Excise will be increas'd, Her Majesty's Health being frequently drank with hearty Huzza's, and this loud Acclamation, *Long may the Queen live, and vanquish the French*. Trading also much more encourag'd, 12500 Men being annually Cloath'd, will exceed Queen *Elizabeth's* burning 30000 *l.* worth of Wool when it was a Drug, the Men improve in Military Discipline, Discontents and Factions discourag'd and suppress'd, the Soldiers Duty will appear so augmented, they will march cheerfully.

And by reason it is not probable that Her Majesty will be at Leisure to take any long Progress for View of Her Subjects du-

ring this War, therefore it's requisite that those of Her Subjects who are able should attend upon Her Majesty; and if this Discourse have the Favour to be taken into Consideration, though Time may be short; yet undoubtedly these eminent Cities of *London* and *Westminster*, and the Lines of Communication, may raise the first 10000 Foot, 2000 Horse, and 500 Dragoons, and be at *Hounslow* by *Midsummer* next at farthest, without taking Harvest People, which some Clauses in the former Recruit Act have licens'd or allow'd.

I confess my self not Master of Arithmetick so as to undertake the Dividend of the fourth part of 50000, but I have that part of good Fortune to be acquainted with a political Arithmetician, whose Favour I hope for in the equal Dividend, according to 6 *d.* in the Pound proportionable to the 4 *s.* in the Pound upon what is generally call'd the Land-Tax.

This 6 *d.* in the Pound is look'd upon to be the main Stumbling-block in all this Discourse, which I would remove or ease thus.

First, not desiring more than 3 *d.* per Pound, to be paid by *Midsummer*, for satisfying the Cloathing the 12500 Men, and their daily Pay for 28 Days, the 3 *d.* to be paid by *Christmas* next into the Treasury of each County, for the daily Pay of every Finder, who is to pay his Representative as he's call'd out, and receive the like from the Treasurer of the County at *Christmas* Sessions, by this means the Militia Money circulates; and if it shall be said this is hard upon the Land, I confess it to be so for this Year, yet if the Militia, as it stands at present, should be called out this Year, it will be harder upon Land it self if Money and Offices be not brought in to assist the Land, and I know no reason why they should not, since the Military Service is a Preservative to him that has Hundreds or Thousands in Money or Offices as well as in Lands, moreover, if in this Year of Immurgences this Tax on the Militia should grow hard, it's in the Power of the Parliament to abate to 3 *s.* 6 *d.* the next Year, if the War continues, and Recruit-Money will be fav'd.

This

This Paragraph or Two to be added. As to the Horse and Dragoons, it's thought not proper to send them abroad, for considering the Temperature we are in, they, and their Riders also, ought to be ready within Call; for now all our Inland Fortifications are demolished, there is less Danger of forming any solid Body of Malecontents; and the quick Motion of Horse and Dragoons, upon the firing a Beacon, or any private Instructions, will be near as useful, being scattered over the Kingdom, as so many kept in a Body in a few parts, for Ten or Twelve being in a Body, moving to a Rendezvous, will in Probability meet with and dissipate those that are going to joyn in a Comotion.

Furthermore I crave leave to add this Paragraph, for the commanding of the whole Body of the Militia, which are propos'd to be reduc'd to 50000 Men, that there shall be 20 Lords-Lieutenants, *id est*, 5 to every District, whereof 3 shall command 3300 and odd of the Foot, and 2 of them 1250 of Cavalry and Dragoons, which are to be drawn upon the Right and Left Wings of Foot in the Camp at *Hounslow*, which is the Height of my Ambition to see, hoping it may be satisfactory to the whole Kingdom, and which may be brought to pass without great Difficulty, if the Parliament think fit to take the Militia into their Consideration, and to establish it upon this or any other Foot that they shall esteem most conducing to the Honour and Safety of the Realm, and to the Ease, Benefit, and Quiet of the Subject.

And as to the annual Charge of raising the Militia, I am very much perswaded that the Freeholders will bear it without much Complaint, and undoubtedly will be infinitely more careful than the Hireling Constable in seeking for their Deserters.

Here I had Intentions of concluding, but to demonstrate my various Thoughts I request Leave to add as follows.

Imprimis, Stat. 7. Edw. I. Says, it belongs to the King to prohibit Force of Arms, and all other Force against the Peace, and

to punish Offenders therein according to Law. And herein every Subject is bound to be aiding.

Stat. 1. E. III. Stat. 2. 5. None shall be charged to Arm himself, otherways than was used in the time of the King's Progenitors ; neither yet shall any be compell'd to go out of his Shire, but when necessity requireth, and the sudden coming of strange Enemies into the Realm, and then it shall be done, as in times past, for the Defence of the Realm.

Stat. c. 18. Hen. VI. 19. It is Felony for a Soldier (retained to serve the King in his Wars) not to go with, or to depart from his Captain, without License.

Stat. 7. Hen. VII. 1. A Captain which shall not have the whole number of Soldiers, or not pay them their due Wages, within six Days after he shall have received them, shall forfeit all his Goods and Chattels, and suffer Imprisonment.

Stat. 2. & 3. Edw. VI. 2. A Soldier that makes away his Horse or Arms (proof thereof being made before the Chief Commander) shall suffer Imprisonment without Bail, until he hath satisfied the Party at whose Charge he was set out.

In this Act also it's Felony (without Benefit of the Clergy) for a Soldier retain'd to depart without License of his Commander ; whereupon Justices of the Peace may proceed as in case of Felony.

After these Strictnesses, comes the Compassion and natural Equity in that Age, which was a considerable Sum in those Days, for a maimed Soldier, upon a Certificate under the Hand and Seal of the Chief Commander, or the Captain under whom he served ; to him that hath not born Offices not exceeding 10 l. to any Officer under a Lieutenant 15 l. to a Lieutenant 20 l.

This Statute admits of many Particulars, as *Wingate* in his Abridgment, reviewed and revived by *Washington*, will demonstrate, from whom I have these Abstracts, therefore I may be easily discover'd upon suspicion or dislike. If I quote, I will, as
near

near as I can, be true; where I do not quote, if I say that which is not allow'd to be generally good, it's my misfortune; for I intend every Particle for the best in the main; tho' most Actions, and even a short Sentence, may admit of various Constructions, and it's oft said, that most things have two Handles; and if I am taken by the weakest, and must, like a crazy piece of Earthen-ware, fall to the Ground and be dash'd in pieces, I am the more unfortunate, especially at this Season, when the Doctrine of Charity and Compassion for Misfortunes and Infirmities, is the grand Admonition. But if I am the only Person blameable, I hope in the conclusion (after I have recited some more Statutes, and Sum'd up the Heads of this Discourse in this *Escole*) to say something for my self, by way of Declaration, which may indicate my desire for an Attonement.

Stat. 4. & 5. Phil. & Mar. 3. If any one, who shall be commanded to Muster by any authorized thereunto, doth absent himself, having no lawful excuse) or at such Musters doth not bring with him his best Arms, he shall suffer 10 Days Imprisonment without Bail, to be imposed by the Persons so authorized, unless he agree to pay 40 *l.* as a Fine, to the use of the King and Queen, and the Heirs and Successors of the Queen; which Fine shall be estreated into the Exchequer, by the said Persons so authorized under their Seals, within two Months after such Agreement, and afterwards levied as Fines, assessed by Justices of Assize and Goal-delivery in their Circuits.

This Statute must be concluded to extend to the Person himself, whom we will call a Finder; for it cannot be supposed, that a Servant riding his Master's Horse, or an Hireling, representing a Freeholder, is capable of Compounding for 40 *l.* There are several material Instances in this Act, which are to be view'd at leisure and at large, which neither Time nor Room will admit of now. Therefore I only recite these two Instances.

First, Offences committed during the time of Service shall be heard and determined by the Chief Commander.

Secondly,

Secondly, This Act shall not discharge Service of War incident to the Tenure of Land.

This brings me to the Recital of Tenures heretofore, which have been these, *Knights-Service*, *Villeneage*, *Escuage*, *Wardship*, and several others, which are described in several Volumes of Antiquity, which are an obsolete Reading, tho' divertive, yet not to be brought within the compass of this Discourse. But upon this occasion of comparing former Ages with the present, they are really necessary ; therefore I request here to recite their Efficacy.

Knights-Service obliged to attend the King when in Arms, either at home or abroad. He that held Land in a whole Knight's Fee, was obliged to attend the King forty Days, well and conveniently array'd for the War. If he had two or three Knight's Fees, his Times were to be increased accordingly. If half a Knight's-Fee, twenty Days, &c. *pro rata*.

Villeneage was upon the seeming present sort of Yeomandry, who were to take care of the Liege-Lord's Lands in Demeane, as we say ; for Plowing and all Husbandry, besides fetching his Coals, Materials for Buildings, or such Services he should be called to, which, in short, did not allow him any time for him to say he was Master of, especially during the War.

Escuage seems to mitigate this Rigour ; for *Escuage*, according to my apprehension, was either to go in Person, as above in the *Knights-Service*, or Commute, as we say now, commonly Compound, by paying a Sum *pro rata*, according as the Land he possessed, Knight's Fee 2, 3, or half one.

A *Ward* I shall not describe, because under Age, and not fit to march under *Mars's* Banner ; yet the Cœrcive Power to serve under *Venus*, seem'd a greater Grievance to the Subject ; for under the one you could die but once, under the other you might live 60 Years in daily Torment, each minute worse than Death. For Marriage was oft-times directed, like or not like, as the Guardian thought fit. This last, or any of the former, when really

really considered, I stood amaz'd at the Health to Old *England*, and the more now, because some Gentlemen I have met with lately, who I thought had read more than my self, have laugh'd at my desires for a Definition of Old *England*.

If these four Instances may be look'd upon as Members of the Body Politick in former Times, I desire to be pardoned, if I say, this Monarchical Power was as Despotical, as any Monarchy in *Christendom*; it's confest it did not extend to Life, but it had the privilege of the first Night with the Bride, which yet in some places pays a Composition, and is call'd *Lairwite*.

More Instances of this kind might be brought, even from *Magna Charta* self.

31. If a Barony escheat to the King, the Tenants that hold of the same (not having other Lands that hold of the King in chief) shall pay like Relief, and do like *Services to the King* after such Escheat, as they did to their former Lords, &c.

32. No Freeman shall give or sell so much of his Land, that of the residue the Lord of the Fee may not have *Services* due to him.

It's confess'd, several little Rents are remaining, to keep in Mind the *Services* the generality of the People underwent formerly; which certainly are not to be wish'd for under the honourable and happy Character of Old *England*: For if Old *England* has been under hard *Services* since *Magna Charta* (which was obtain'd by Popular Sway) what did she endure or undergo, before *Magna Charta* gain'd? It's well observ'd and compriz'd by Sir *John Denham*, in his Poem call'd *Cooper's-Hall*.

*Thus Kings, by grasping more than they could hold,
First by Oppression made their Subjects bold;
And Popular Sway, by forcing Kings to give,
More than was fit for Subjects to receive,
Run to the like Extream; both by excess,
For being greater, make each other less.*

I would

I would willingly join Issue, and pledge the Health to Old *England*, if they only recite the Honour and Courage of Old *England*, which appear'd, demonstrated, and effected their great Exploits by those Services; which do clearly Evidence, that the Nobility and Gentry going Personally into the Field, do defend and conquer with Honour and Advantage, like the Antient *Romans*, who, whilst they went in Person, conquered for the most part, but when they had enlarg'd their Dominions, and rais'd, as they thought, an Immortal Terrour, Honour and Character, they became Effeminate, and made use of mercenary Armies, and declin'd the use of Arms themselves: So that in process of Time, they waving the general Good, set up for deep Politicians, and by separate Insinuations, obtain'd Popularity, and so fell into Domestick Quarrels, till there's nothing remaining more than some of their Statues, Medals, and Histories, to demonstrate what they have been.

I only hint at this Precedent with some of our own, to demonstrate the Advantages of Personal Appearance. It was by this means that the *Scots* were so oft repuls'd, when they made Incursions upon us; by this means *Wales* was brought to an entire Obedience and Union; by the same means *Ireland* became Tributary; and the *English* made Inroads into *France* to such a degree, that we claim it as our Right by Conquest, as well as Descent: But we have lost that Power by a long Series of Peace in Queen *Elizabeth's* Days, and King *James* the First, for after she had happily defeated the *Spanish Armado*, she did, it's confess'd, set up and went a great way in the Dominion of the Narrow Seas, and soon after rested her self contented with Familiarities and pretty Insinuations into her People; whose Steps King *James* I. followed; for he had such an aversion to Gunpowder, he smelt it at a great distance, and so being a Man of Literature he conversed with Scholasticks, and went a great way towards arguing out Popery; which made the subtle Jesuite go another way to work, and dress himself in a Fanatical disguise, under which it's doubted he still lurks amongst us; however it's sadly experienc'd, that the Jesuit was the Bellows that blew up the late Civil War; and altho' he could not insinuate himself into the majority of the Nobility and Gentry, so as to alienate them

them from their Duty to their King, yet he knew, what I have several times heard recited, as the Original of an *English* Gentleman or two, that the only means to counter Honour is Zeal. And so we found that the Enthusiastick Head, and hard Hand, encouraging the unthinking Mob at that time with Plunder and Sacrilege, brought us almost to Devastations; and yet I hear some admire the Man that had the Gathering of two or three easie Reigns, or Gleanings of that Confusion, as we naturally call Arbitrary Power. It's confess'd those Times shew'd great Courage, Blood and Slaughter, on both sides, which appear'd as a Scene of Mirth to him that thought he had Success. But when we commend these Traditions or Historical Stories of Courage, we seem to resemble the Person that loves Honey, but does not consider the laborious Bee, who goes abroad with a natural Inclination to gather Store against the Winter, at every glimpse of Sun-shine innocently moving, not apprehensive of the Storm that is coming, which perhaps affrights her home before she has found out any thing to compensate her pains, and so returns to her Hive empty of any Loading, only rejoicing that she has sav'd her Life; and if when the best of Days happen to favour her, and she make quick returns, unloading her self immediately as she gathers, yet we scarce think or know from what Bryars, Brambles, Thorns, and prickly Bushes, she has obtain'd this we so much delight in, and so tyrannically, as I may call it, destroy this laborious Creature. This is a true Representation of our Government-Power and its Effects, till lately. It's since the Restoration that the *English* Subject was put into the most likely Enjoyment of what the Terrestrial Matters can afford, and these Halcyon Days were secur'd us by the *Stat. 12 Car. II. c. 24.* All Tenures by Knights Service in *Capite*, and Common Soccage, and the Fruits and Consequences thereof shall be taken away; and all Tenures turn'd into Free and Common Soccage; and all Conveyances and Devises since the 24th of *February, 1645*, shall be of such effect, as if the Lands and Hereditaments had then been holden in Free Soccage only, and not in *Capite*.

From hence it is, we may say we were freed from the strait Reins and Spurs that hung up in the Hall of the Prerogative Palace, tho' they have not been effectually put on for some time, we having been, by the Indulgence of the former Reigns I now mentioned, grown rather like untameable Creatures than Colts, and found our selves grown to full Strength; so that we would neither indure Bit nor Bridle, and the Spurs are of no use without Backing; so that in truth, it was no great difficulty to treat with the Crown to part with these Tackle; which (unless the Court of Wards) in my apprehension had not been made use of for many Years; yet the Wisdom of the Nation did not like to see them hang in their sight, and therefore were willing to come to a Compact. And the whole Nation having drank rather too much, in the Rejoycing at the Restoration of him that had an Hereditary Right, and was affable in his Treat to a Bargain; and so, as I apprehend it, either by shortning the Measure, or smalling the Liquor, or taking away a little of the Brewer's immense Profit, we were eas'd of all these Incumbrances for Excise. The Militia being Re-Establish'd, and in some parts a little new model'd; which seemed very satisfactory and a good Security, till our Neighbours grew Potent, and we Considerable, having in the main recovered our intestine Ruins, the Plague and Fire of *London*. And then Grumblings began, Jealousies again increased, and every individual Person seem'd to Arm again, and Politicians began to publish Reasons; and had not our Neighbours Potency both by Sea and Land given us apprehensions of their readiness to slip in amongst us; we look'd very like the adventuring another Eruption, which Providence has mercifully prevented, by his own scourging Methods, which puts us in thorough Fears, tho' in his Mercy he hath stopt both the apparent Dangers, either of bringing in Popery, or Arbitrary Power, by Insinuations and Policies, or Popery and Devastation, by a Potent Neighbour.

For avoiding of which for the future, is the main End of several Scriblings and Discourses, and several serious Considerations of the wiser Head. All which are, or ought to be wish'd to be Successful, for finding out the best Expedients for our Preservation.

I shall only beg leave to add one or two Observations more, which with all deference imaginable is humbly submitted to better Judgments (for I hope and desire that I may not be thought or censur'd as a disparager) if I say that the Recruit Bill contains something like a Negative against its own nature, and proper, and useful Intentions, as thus ;

For the speedy and effectual Recruiting of Her Majesties Land Forces and Marines for the Service of the Year 1709, &c. Its enacted that the Commissioners, or any three of them in their Respective Places or Stations, shall have Authority and Power to Raise and Levie all such able Bodyed Men as do not follow or Exercise any lawful Calling, or Employment, or have not some other lawful and sufficient Support and Maintenance to serve Her Majesties Soldiers, yet in the said Act it is this Clause provided always. And it is hereby declared, that this Act shall not extend to the taking or levying any Person to serve as a Soldier, who shall make it appear that he hath any Vote in the Election of any Member or Members to serve in Parliament ; in any County, City, Borough, Town, Port, or Place, within the Kingdom of Great Britain.

Now with submission, (if Observations may pass Muster) this Clause protects a moiety of the Recruits design'd, by the express Directions (in the Body of the Act) for those Able Men that do not follow or exercise any lawful Calling or Employment, or have not some other lawful and sufficient Support and Maintenance ; for Market-Towns contain more Loiterers, than the Country. As will be found upon Examination of two evasive Practices : The first is, by setting out the poor Children of Parishes to Mechanick Trades ; whereas the Law directs they shall be placed upon the Plough or Husbandry of the Parish : Whereupon consequently the Plough must stand still, the Corn shed in the Field, and the Grass rot on the Ground, as the last Clause of the Recruit-Bill takes Cognizance of. And during this all Trades are over-stock'd ; so that the Loiterers,

terers, either for diversion or hunger, strike out and trespass upon worse Things, if not Game, the tho' prohibited to Soldiers and Free-holders, under 100*l.* per *Annum*.

I shall say no more, but quote the following Clause taken out of the Lord *Bacon's* History of the Reign of K. *Henry VII.* P. 73, 74, & 75, and so conclude. In P. 74 are these Words, 'How much this did advance the Military Power of the Kingdom, is apparent, by the true Principles of War, and the Examples of other Kingdoms. For it hath been held by the general Opinion of Men of best Judgment in the Wars, (Howsoever some few have varied, and that it may receive some distinction of Case) that the Principal Strength of an Army consisteth in the Infantry or Foot, and to make good Infantry, it requireth Men bred, not in a Servile or Indigent Fashion, but in some free and plentiful manner. Therefore if a State run most to Noblemen and Gentlemen, and that the Husbandmen and Plowmen be but as their Workfolks and Labourers, or else mere Cottagers (which are but starved Beggars) you may have a good Cavalry, but never good Bands of Foot, like to Coppice Woods, that if you leave in them Staddles too thick, they will run to Bushes and Briars, and have little clear underwood. And this is to be seen in *France* and *Italy*, and some other Parts Abroad, where in effect all is Nobless, or Peasantry, I speak of People out of Towns, and no middle People; and therefore no good Forces of Foot: Inasmuch, as they are enforced to imploy Mercenary Bands, of *Switzers* and the like, for their Battallions of Foot: Whereby also it comes to pass, that those Nations have much People, and few Soldiers. Whereas the King saw, that contrarywise it would follow, that *England*, tho' much less in Territory; yet should have infinitely more Soldiers, of their Native Forces, than those other Nations have. Thus did the King secretly sow *Hidraes* Teeth, whereupon (according to the Poets fiction) should rise up Armed Men for the Service of the Kingdom.

Concluding here, I shall not adventure to say any more at present. And so craving pardon for detaining the Courteous Reader thus long.

I humbly Subscribe his most

Humble Servant, &c.